

LEEDS 2023 update to Scrutiny Board

Date: 7 November 2022

Report of: Chief Officer, Culture and Economy

Report to: Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

LEEDS 2023 is the city's Year of Culture, delivered by the Leeds Culture Trust, an independent charity set up in 2019 by Leeds City Council as part of its Culture Strategy and as a response to the cancellation of the UK's participation in the European Capital of Culture competition.

On 28th March 2022, Scrutiny Board provided feedback on a summary on progress towards LEEDS 2023 year of culture. In response to the Scrutiny Board discussion, this paper follows up on specific areas of interest and provides an update on progress made since the last meeting.

The update focuses on:

- Leadership and governance
- Programme and "100 Days to Go"
- Consultation and engagement with elected members
- Public engagement
- Evaluation and impact
- Legacy
- Grant agreement
- Fundraising and sponsorship

Recommendations

- a) Scrutiny Board is requested to note and provide comments on the information provided in this report and the progress made.

What is this report about?

- 1 LEEDS 2023 is run by the Leeds Culture Trust, an independent charity set up in 2019 by Leeds City Council as part of its Culture Strategy and as a response to the cancellation of the UK's participation in the European Capital of Culture competition. Leeds City Council recognises in a number of its key strategies the difference culture and creativity can make to a city and its residents and is the principal funder of LEEDS 2023.

With 3 seasons, 12 Signature projects of original work, hundreds of partnerships including over 20 international partnerships, LEEDS 2023 will be an **event of national and international significance** and a major cultural milestone on Leeds' major events calendar. Alongside Kirklees' Year of Music planned for 2023, LEEDS 2023 is building momentum regionally and will act as a runway toward Calderdale's and Wakefield's Years of Culture in 2024 and Bradford's UK City of Culture in 2025. Collectively, the region is set for a cultural transformation which will position West Yorkshire as a magnet for the arts, culture and creativity in the years to come.

This report provides an update on several areas of the work of LEEDS 2023 which Scrutiny Board has requested to explore in more depth and informs members on progress made since the last Scrutiny Board report in March 2022.

Leadership and governance

- 2 Leeds Culture Trust is led by a **board of trustees** which is chaired by Gabby Logan MBE. From the outset there have been two trustees from the Council on the board, currently Councillors Dan Cohen and Jonathan Pryor. Influential figures such as Jamie Jones Buchanan MBE (former Leeds Rhinos player), Frank Finlay (Director of the University of Leeds' Cultural Institute), Sharon Watson (former artistic director of Phoenix Dance Theatre and current principal of Northern School of Contemporary Dance) and Sanchez Payne (former Leeds United player and currently a presenter on BBC Radio Leeds) were appointed over time and still serve as Trustees on the Board.
- 3 The **City Readiness Board** is the council led governance structure bringing together LCC and Leeds Culture Trust to help ensure that the Year of Culture maximises its benefits and impacts across the city and the wider region. The operational readiness structure consists of one overarching board bringing together LCC Directors and Chief Officers with the executive team of Leeds Culture Trust. There are also three sub-groups which cover:
 - Visitor Welcome and Strategic Marketing
 - Planning and Feasibility
 - Young People, Education and Skills

The structure has been established to coordinate and accelerate effective progress towards the Year of Culture, whilst helping to ensure that the LEEDS 2023 team achieves its stated strategic objectives and is aligned to council services wherever appropriate. It also provides a mechanism for escalating any operational problems to be considered directly by council directors and the executive team of LEEDS 2023.

The membership of the sub-groups has evolved over time and will continue to do so as the focus of LEEDS 2023 shifts from planning to delivery. A review of the City Readiness Board and its sub-groups is currently taking place, led by the council's Executive Manager LEEDS 2023 Partnership.

- 4 The Executive Manager took up post on 1 April 2022 with the aim of strengthening governance arrangements between LCC and LEEDS 2023 for a two-year period until 31 March 2024. The postholder is charged with establishing effective engagement with elected members, helping

Leeds Culture Trust to navigate LCC and maximise the established networks and relationships which the council has with communities and businesses across the city.

Programme and “100 Days to Go”

- 5 The LEEDS 2023 programme will be of both national and international significance and will consist of three strands of activity – Produce, Partner and Promote.

The “**Produce**” strand will consist of 12 major signature projects, original works produced by LEEDS 2023 which will punctuate the year.

The “**Partner**” strand entails working in partnership with local, national and international partners to showcase the wealth of cultural infrastructure to be found in Leeds. The aim of the Partner Programme will be to increase the capacity of the city by working with and through others, to collaborate and champion interdisciplinary partnerships and increase Leeds’ international profile.

The Partner Programme will be complemented by the “**Promote**” strand of LEEDS 2023’s activity. This will entail supporting partners by offering in-kind promotional support, and will include:

- Profiling on the central website
- Offering the use of LEEDS 2023 branding / logo
- Inclusion within press and marketing campaigns
- Support with social media activity

In exchange, promote partners will be asked to adhere to LEEDS 2023 policies and values, and support LEEDS 2023 with audience experiences and evaluation activity.

- 6 Significant progress has been made since the last Scrutiny Board in March in shaping the programme of the Year of Culture and this was evidenced on 23rd September at the “**100 Days to Go**” launch at the new home of the LEEDS 2023 team at Brewery Wharf. The launch involved two invitation-only briefing events to which elected members, sponsors, artists, funders, key partners and the press and media were invited. The launch gave LEEDS 2023 the opportunity to make key programme announcements for the year ahead. Three seasons will shape the year, with ‘**Awakening**’ influencing Part One (January to April), ‘**Playing**’ the focus of Part Two (May to August), and ‘**Dreaming**’ a forward-looking end to the year (September to December).
- 7 The “100 Days to Go” launch placed a strong focus on “**The Awakening**” opening event which will take place at Headingley stadium on 7th January. “The Awakening” will be a free ticketed event to celebrate Leeds’ past, present and future in a live show. 15,000 tickets are available, with the ticket ballot inviting people to get creative and submit a piece of art to be in with a chance of gaining a pair of free tickets. Artworks can be uploaded onto the LEEDS 2023 website and those unable to submit online are able to drop off their creations at yellow art boxes at the following locations across Leeds:
- LEEDS 2023 HQ, Brewery Place
 - The Old Fire Station
 - Middleton Health for All
 - Voluntary Action Leeds
 - New Worley Community Centre
 - Armley Library
 - Reginald Centre
 - Hamara

- Bramley Baths
- Kirkgate Market
- Leeds Beckett University, Headingley Campus
- Leeds Beckett University, City Centre Campus
- LS14 Trust
- Burmantofts Community Hub and Library

“Creation stations” are also available at Trinity Leeds Shopping Centre, White Rose Shopping Centre and at LEEDS 2023 headquarters at Brewery Wharf, where the public are helped to create art works to enter into the ticket ballot. 25th November is the deadline for submissions when 7,500 pieces of the public’s art will be selected at random to receive a pair of free tickets to “The Awakening” show. The artwork submitted by the public will also feature in the opening show.

To inspire engagement with the ballot and enable learning about Leeds' diverse cultural heritage and landscape, LEEDS 2023 have produced classroom resources for learners in Key Stages 1-5, including SEND learners. Classroom resources will enable teachers to engage pupils in learning about moments and movements in Leeds' cultural heritage and inspire them to create new artworks that can be submitted to the ballot. Additionally, up to 2,500 learners across 40 schools will take part in workshops facilitated by professional artists who will support them in their learning and the creation of artwork.

Consultation and engagement with elected members

- 8 When the last LEEDS 2023 report was taken to Scrutiny Board on 28 March, board members were clear about the need to strengthen engagement with elected members and to ensure that they are aware of what to expect in LEEDS 2023. A number of steps have been taken as a result of this feedback in order to strengthen the engagement of elected members with LEEDS 2023.
- 9 A presentation on LEEDS 2023 was made at the June-July 2022 cycle of **Community Committees**, whereby ward councillors and members of the public were given the opportunity to ask questions to representatives of the LEEDS 2023 team and LCC officers working on the Year of Culture. The majority of questions arising from the Community Committees were around the expected benefits of the Year of Culture for local communities and whether impact would be measured at ward level. In response to these questions, Councillors were given information on artistic seed commissions which have already taken place in local wards, as well as advance information around the My LEEDS 2023 project and the recruitment of **33 Neighbourhood Hosts**, one for each ward, who will help to co-ordinate activity at ward level, as described in section 15 of this report. Information around evaluation and measuring impact at ward level, as described in sections 19-21 below, was also shared with elected members.
- 10 Throughout the summer of 2022, LEEDS 2023 held a **city-wide roadshow** which involved events in all 33 wards. All councillors received direct invitations to the roadshow and were asked to help to publicise them to local residents, artists and community groups. The roadshows featured performances, food and presentations about various opportunities to get involved with LEEDS 2023 including the Neighbourhood Host programme, how to “share an idea” with LEEDS 2023, volunteering, as well opportunities from LEEDS 2023’s creative learning and engagement programme such as a “Youth Summit” and a programme for “Young Creatives”. A total of 43 councillors attended the roadshows, alongside 750 other participants which included parish councillors, local businesses, artists, youth group leaders, faith and community leaders and members of the public.
- 11 All elected members received a **briefing pack** in mid-September outlining the history of LEEDS 2023, its funding arrangements, a brief programme overview, examples of activities which have

already taken place throughout the city and details about how local residents can get involved. The briefing pack can be seen in appendix 1. An electronic version of the briefing pack has also been sent out to all town and parish councils. Updates and reminders on LEEDS 2023 activities have been included in the regular member updates issued by the Chief Executive's office.

- 12 On 23 September LEEDS 2023 held their “**100 days to go**” events at their new offices at Brewery Wharf and all councillors received an invitation to the briefings taking place as part of the launch. The events attracted 18 councillors in total. There are plans to hold a further briefing for councillors on 1 November which will be combined with an introduction to the Neighbourhood Hosts as part of their induction to the role.
- 13 Ward councillors are being briefed about proposed events taking place in their wards and community consultations are being held as appropriate.

Public engagement

- 14 Equality, inclusion, and diversity sit at the core of the LEEDS 2023 approach to culture and this is reflected in the company's approach to recruitment and programming as well as in its policies, practices and procedures. In order to ensure that the benefits of the year are felt not just in the city centre or in the wards which already have high levels of cultural engagement, LEEDS 2023 are looking to break down barriers that individuals and communities face when trying to access culture, including:
 - Providing free or low-cost ticketing to ensure participation by people from all socio-economic groups.
 - Ensuring that localised activity is planned in all 33 wards of Leeds and beyond the city centre.
 - Creating digital immersion tools to remove geography and physical participation as a barrier to accessing the Year of Culture.
 - Engaging with schools across the city and creating classroom resources for learners in Key Stages 1-5, including SEND learners.
- 15 Consultation with local communities is essential to maximise the potential for public engagement with the Year of Culture. A **co-creation approach** is being taken with Leeds communities, enabling Leeds residents and community and cultural organisations to shape the programmes which are relevant to where and how they live. A strong example of this community led approach has been the My World, My City, My Neighbourhood (MWMCMN) programme funded by Arts Council England, running over the past year. This project has allowed the development of a signature event in 2023, My LEEDS 2023, which has gained significant funding from the Esmee Fairburn Foundation and Paul Hamlyn Foundation. The project will allow LEEDS 2023 to recruit **33 Neighbourhood Hosts** who will participate in a skills development programme and co-create a major event in collaboration with the diverse communities in their ward next summer.
- 16 The LEEDS 2023 website also has a facility for members of the public and organisations to “**share an idea**”, giving LEEDS 2023 the opportunity to build the “partner” and “promote” elements of the year and amplify cultural events and activities taking place throughout the city in 2023.
- 17 As outlined in section 10 above, the **LEEDS 2023 roadshow** took place over the summer months, with one event taking place in each of the 33 wards. The roadshow was an opportunity to spread the message to local communities about how to get involved in the Year of Culture

and led to a diverse pool of applications from local residents keen to work as Neighbourhood Hosts or to sign up to the volunteer programme.

- 18 Every child and young person of school age in Leeds is getting the chance to take part in the Year of Culture. LEEDS 2023's **creative learning programme** features free activities for learners in all key stages, including classroom resources, facilitated workshops, participatory activities, and opportunities for learning outside the classroom. With links to the curriculum, the programme supports teaching across a variety of subject areas and helps learners develop their creativity. Learning resources for schools can be found on the LEEDS 2023 website <https://leeds2023.co.uk/learning-resources>.

By working closely with Child Friendly Leeds, LCC's Voice Influence and Change team and the Leeds Cultural Education Partnership (LCEP) LEEDS 2023 is working to bring together cultural provision across the city to promote youth voice and co-creation, with the participation of larger numbers of young people that are also representative of the city.

Evaluation and impact

- 19 The last Scrutiny Board report on 28 March gave a full description of the evaluation approach which is summarised in the diagrams in appendix 2. Since that time, a number of developments have taken place to establish measures, capture data and establish baselines.
- 20 An open and collaborative partnership has been established between LEEDS 2023 and its evaluation partners The Audience Agency and the Centre for Cultural Value, its data partner Open Innovations and Leeds City Council. Data sharing agreements are being worked up to allow data to be shared openly between organisations to ensure that every best effort is made to measure the impact of the year. LEEDS 2023 have introduced a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system which all staff are being trained to use in order to capture the contacts and relationships being developed locally, nationally and around the world, with a view to passing the information to LCC for legacy purposes.

Working groups looking at Data and CRM have been established to ensure that all of the data being collected by LEEDS 2023 is relevant and can feed into telling an accurate story about the impact and legacy of the year.

Open Innovations have commenced their work on **data collection, analysis and visualisation**, breaking down participant data from the recent LEEDS 2023 roadshow to build a picture of participation at ward level. This information is being used by the LEEDS 2023 team to identify the parts of the city where additional intervention could be targeted to ensure city-wide participation in the Year of Culture. Data around volunteering, social media and the ballot for "The Awakening" are all live and provide a further insight into engagement at ward level.

The work which Open Innovations is undertaking also includes plans for an impact dashboard aligned with some of the KPIs set in the council's grant agreement, so that performance information is up to date, easy to access and readily available. This will provide a useful insight not just for LCC but for the cultural sector and other partners across the city.

- 21 LCC's Economic Policy team is currently seeking to integrate cultural measures within the Council's emerging Social Progress Index. Early discussions are taking place with the evaluation partners to explore how ward level data around cultural engagement emerging from the LEEDS 2023 evaluation can feed into the Social Progress Index.

Legacy

- 22 At the March Scrutiny Board meeting, members highlighted the importance of a stronger focus on arrangements to secure the legacy of LEEDS 2023. Subsequent to this, LCC has commissioned a 'legacy think piece' involving interviews and workshops with key stakeholders across LCC, Leeds Culture Trust and the wider creative sector. This work, for LCC internal use, provides an objective view on the potential for and scope of Legacy for the Year of Culture.
- 23 As part of this work, stakeholders were asked to look at the decision to bid for the title of European Capital of Culture taken by Executive Board in March 2015, and to consider what has happened as a result of this bold move. It is clear from the response that the legacy of the LEEDS 2023 bid and the subsequent decision to "do it anyway" taken after the UK was excluded from the competition, is already visible and tangible. It has led to **increased profile for the city** as a centre for culture and creativity, home to the new Channel 4 headquarters and the Centre for Cultural Value based at the University of Leeds and future home to the National Poetry Centre and British Library North.
- 24 The most recent example of the **heightened sense of confidence and ambition** which has been built by the LEEDS 2023 journey is the decision for Leeds to bid for the Eurovision Song Contest. Although the Leeds bid did not make it to the final two, it was an example of how Leeds has developed into a confident and proactive city, building the Eurovision Song Contest into its plans for LEEDS 2023, supported by a range of organisations from education, hospitality, business and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority including the member Local Authorities. The strength of the local partnership was a very visible part of the bid which received positive feedback from the BBC.
- 25 As Leeds Culture Trust is expected to wind up in 2024, it is clear that legacy should be led by Leeds City Council with defined responsibilities for Leeds Culture Trust to deliver a strong foundation. This will be set out in a refreshed grant agreement between the Council and the Trust (see sections 28-30 below). Ongoing collaboration between the Council and the Trust pre, during and immediately post LEEDS 2023 will be key to capturing the impacts of the Year of Culture on the city and wider region. As such, requirements for the evaluation framework for LEEDS 2023, aligned with the scope of legacy planning will also be incorporated within the reset grant agreement.
- 26 The refreshed grant agreement for LEEDS 2023, as described in sections 28-30 below, is expected to include information sharing requirements to enable effective legacy planning. Examples of data to be collected include:
- Ticketing data for use by Arts, Events & Venues team in the ongoing promotion of LCC events / programmes
 - Volunteer data – so that volunteers might be signed up to support LCC events
 - Grants data – to scope alignment with the Council's cultural grants programmes and ongoing sector support
 - Communities – to facilitate the continuation of our cultural and working relationships across the city's 33 wards
 - Schools data – to assess and potentially further develop cultural engagement with Leeds' schools
 - International – key contacts to be shared with LCC for ongoing relationship building by International Relations and Culture Programmes
- 27 Consideration will be given to the vehicle and working structures for legacy development, which could be linked to the existing City Readiness governance structure or widened out to involve

the broader cultural sector. This work will look at the infrastructure needed to receive the baton from LEEDS 2023 and to ensure that the dynamism, learning and the data captured from the year are not lost.

Legacy planning will position LEEDS 2023 alongside Kirklees Year of Music 2023, as the **runway toward Bradford 2025 City of Culture** and incorporate the years of cultural activity planned for Calderdale and Wakefield in 2024, creating a strong regional, national and international profile for West Yorkshire as a centre for culture and creativity.

Grant agreement

- 28 As we approach the launch of the LEEDS 2023, officers are working to ensure that the Council's grant agreement for the project clearly defines our aims and facilitates the Council in capitalising on the Year of Culture and its legacy. To this end, we are collaborating with Leeds Culture Trust to refresh the grant agreement to take us to the conclusion of LEEDS 2023.
- 29 The process of resetting the agreement will consider updating, redefining or adding sections to Schedule 1 of the grant agreement, the section which defines the LEEDS 2023 project. This will include:
- Outputs and outcomes – updating KPIs for the project to align with the evaluation framework and legacy planning.
 - Legacy Plan – to set out how LCC and Leeds Culture Trust work together to develop this through 2023.
 - Data Sharing – incorporating information sharing requirements to support the legacy planning for LEEDS 2023. The type of information to be shared can be seen in the legacy section of this report, under section 26.
 - Evaluation – to set out expectations for delivery of the final evaluation report.
 - Governance – to include governance arrangements provided by the City Readiness Board and its sub-groups.
 - Wrap up of Leeds Culture Trust in 2024 – to ensure that the grant agreement can be concluded as a whole while accounting for key activities such as the Leeds Culture Trust's Theatre Tax Relief claim to HMRC, and the producing and filing of financial statements.
- 30 Schedule 2 of the grant agreement will also be updated to incorporate £1.5m additional funding provided to Leeds City Council from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority for the project.

Fundraising and sponsorship

- 31 In July 2019 Leeds City Council entered into a grant agreement with the Leeds Culture Trust, lasting up until March 2024. The original core budget commitment was for £12,700,000 to be paid in quarterly instalments, and this was reduced to £10,665,000 in 2021. Further details of LCC's contribution can be found in section 41 of this report under "resource implications".
- 32 Strong progress has been made by LEEDS 2023's fundraising team in securing funding over and above that provided by LCC. Leeds City Council's contribution has leveraged further funding from a variety of sources outlined below, which brings **total additional fundraising to date to £5,951,373**.

- Arts Council England
- British Council
- The Netherland's Embassy
- National Lottery Heritage Fund
- Paul Hamlyn Foundation
- Esmee Fairbairn Foundation
- Leeds Community Foundation
- West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Total Trusts and Foundations funding to date **£5,196,373**

- Principal Education Partners: University of Leeds and Beckett University
- Gold Education Partners: Leeds Trinity University Leeds Arts University, Luminate, Northern School of Contemporary Dance.

Total education partner funding to date **£360,000**

14 Corporate Sponsors

• Bruntwood	Headline Partner
• Landsec	Headline Partner
• Channel 4	Platinum Partner
• Burberry	Platinum Partner
• KPMG	Platinum Partner
• Square Patton Boggs	Gold Partner
• Balfour Beatty	Gold Partner
• Born Ugly	Gold Partner
• Addleshaw Goddard	2023 Club Member
• Grammar School at Leeds	2023 Club Member
• Leeds Building Society	2023 Club Member
• True North	2023 Club Member
• Kinrise	2023 Club Member
• Henry Boot Developments	2023 Club Member
• Mott McDonald	2023 Club Member
• Yorkshire Mafia	2023 Club Member
• Q5	2023 Club Member
• Notre Dame College	2023 Club Member
• Quod	2023 Club Member
• Civic Engineers	2023 Club Member
• DLA Piper	2023 Club Member

Total corporate sponsorship to date: **£395,000**

33 LEEDS 2023 has an ambitious budget target and aims to invest 50% in programme delivery. In spite of a growing number of challenges and against a difficult economic backdrop which make this an increasingly difficult climate for fundraising, Leeds Culture Trust continues to make good progress towards its ambitious targets for LEEDS 2023.

A further £2.3m of additional funding is pending and bids worth another £5.8m are currently in the pipeline. Fundraising efforts will continue throughout 2022 and until the end of 2023, with experience of other Years of Culture suggesting that the majority of match funding comes within the year itself. Some ticketed events and branded merchandise will also generate income.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 34 LEEDS 2023 will deliver wide ranging benefits across the whole city and is an important part of LCC's major events strategy. LCC is committed to continuing to promote a positive, dynamic, diverse, and outward-looking image on a global stage and major events such as LEEDS 2023 are an important part of the city's offer that can deliver this.
- 35 LCC working alongside LEEDS 2023 and culture sector partners has a strong focus on legacy planning, as outlined in the section on legacy (sections 22-27) above.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing Inclusive Growth Zero Carbon

- 36 LEEDS 2023 contributes to both the city's and the council's ambitions and is aligned to each of the three pillars of the Best City Ambition.
- 37 The LEEDS 2023 programme aligns with the Health and Wellbeing strategy by supporting healthy, physically active lifestyles, as well as improving social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing. The impacts of arts and culture are well documented, with doctors now using social prescribing as a means to combat depression and loneliness.
- 38 The Year of Culture will support the city's economic recovery from COVID-19 and building longer term economic resilience. The year will also contribute to the following Big Ideas:
- Maximising the economic benefits of culture
 - Promoting Leeds and Yorkshire
 - Leeds as a digital city
 - Working together to create better jobs, tackling low pay and boosting productivity
 - Putting children at the heart of the growth strategy
- 39 Sustainability is at the heart of LEEDS 2023's approach to its Year of Culture and its Sustainable Action Plan aligns with Leeds' Net Zero Strategy. LEEDS 2023 has been working with SAIL (Sustainable Arts in Leeds) to develop a sustainable road map across the entirety of its programme and there will be a carbon impact assessment carried out for each of the 12 signature projects. In addition, the year will include best practice projects which champion sustainable practices and are industry leaders in their approach, whilst helping to educate audiences about the importance of combating climate change.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: All 33 wards

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 40 A detailed description of the consultation and engagement activity both with elected members and with local communities can be seen in the sections on elected member consultation and public engagement (sections 8-18) above.

What are the resource implications?

- 41 The Council's original total commitment for LEEDS 2023 was £12,700,000, of which:
- £1,350,000 was withdrawn in 2021/22 as a result of LCC cost savings.
 - The grant issued to Leeds Culture Trust was for the remaining sum of £10,665,000.
 - The contribution to LEEDS 2023 from the core council budget has been further reduced by making substitutions by applying funds which cannot be used to deliver core council services, namely substitutions from the Business Rates Pool (BRP) and WYCA's Leeds' Gainshare allocation which resulted from the devolution deal for West Yorkshire.
 - £4,835,000 has been paid to Leeds Culture Trust to date, of which £3,034,893 (63%) came from LCC core budget and £1,800,107 (37%) were substitutions from the Business Rates Pool and Gainshare.
 - No funding has been paid in 2022/23 to date, but planned spend is £2,541,000, so at the end of 22/23 spend will be £7,376,000. Of this, £4,075,893 will be from LCC core budget and £3,300,107 will be from BRP & Gainshare, with a further £1,633,000 from BRP in 2023/24.
 - Overall, substitutions reduce the Council's total net commitment from £10,665,000 to £5,731,893
- 42 The Council has also undertaken to front fund costs up to £1.83m for the Shonibare sculpture to be installed in Meadow Lane Green Space in Aire Park as part of the Year of Culture. This will be held against the capital programme contingency reserve and will be reduced as fundraising for the project progresses. A full fundraising strategy has been drawn up for the project to be led by LEEDS 2023, with a number of funding applications already developed.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 43 The Council recognises that growing the economy has positive benefits to the city and that our work developing the city's culture strategy and the successful delivery of LEEDS 2023 are crucial components of achieving our Inclusive Growth Strategy ambitions. The current geo-political situation, the cost of living crisis and ensuing pressure on the economy and local communities are all risks to success of the Year of Culture. Leeds Culture Trust is positioning LEEDS 2023 as part of the solution in terms of economic contribution and the job opportunities that the year will bring to the city, as well as offering people happiness and excitement, thus contributing to health and wellbeing.
- 44 It is a requirement of funding that Leeds Culture Trust maintains a risk register and that this is monitored by the Board of Trustees. As a condition of payment, the Trust files updated copies of the risk register with the Council, at least annually.
- 45 The City Readiness Board and its sub-groups offer a governance structure which allows risks to be identified and issues to be escalated to LCC directors. The Executive Manager LEEDS 2023 Partnership has been in post since April 2022, providing additional oversight of key risks.
- 46 A LEEDS 2023 risk has also been added to the Culture and Economy service risk register which is part of the City Development Directorate risk register. The risk is owned by the Chief Officer for Culture and Economy.

What are the legal implications?

47 There are no significant legal issues relating to the recommendations in this report. The Council closely monitors its investment in LEEDS 2023 through a grant agreement – 2019 to 2024. The grant agreement includes reporting conditions set against each quarterly payment. For audit and monitoring purposes, all reporting documentation is appropriately filed.

48 Other legal arrangements are being put in place to support various aspects of the LEEDS 2023 Year of Culture. These include:

- A cooperation agreement between LCC and LCT around the delivery of the Shonibare sculpture in Meadow Lane Green Space in Aire Park, which is due to be unveiled in October 2023. The cooperation agreement will include a schedule setting out the conditions which are needed for the council to front fund the costs of the sculpture whilst a fundraising strategy is implemented by LEEDS 2023. The agreement to front fund the costs of the Shonibare artwork was made by the Executive Board on 22 June 2022. An agreement in principle was also made in May 2022 for the council to own and maintain the Shonibare sculpture after installation.
- A contract is currently being drawn up between Leeds City Council and West Yorkshire Combined Authority which will set out the requirements for a grant of £1.5m to fund the Women of the World project, It is proposed that the updated grant agreement between LCC and LEEDS 2023 will incorporate the funding requirements set out by WYCA.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

49 N/A

How will success be measured?

50 Success will be measured through a detailed evaluation of LEEDS 2023 as set out in the section on evaluation and impact (sections 19-21) above. A final report setting out a full evaluation of LEEDS 2023 will be delivered within six months of the close of the Year of Culture and this will underpin the legacy of LEEDS 2023.

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

51 The Year of Culture will commence with “The Awakening” event on 7 January 2023 and a full year of cultural events is planned.

Leeds Culture Trust is responsible for the delivery of the LEEDS 2023 Year of Culture. Eve Roodhouse, the Chief Officer for Culture and Economy, is the responsible officer within Leeds City Council who will ensure that the council’s interests are represented throughout the year and that a legacy plan is in place.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Councillor briefing pack
- Appendix 2 - LEEDS 2023 Evaluation Approach

Background papers

- Details of the LEEDS 2023 programme which were announced at the “100 Days to Go” launch, including “The Awakening” and the “My LEEDS 2023” project can be found on the website here <https://leeds2023.co.uk/news/programme-launch>